

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1     1.     A method for producing a graphical user interface, the method comprising:  
2                 storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each control  
3                 object in a separate layer, and  
4                 launching an application program to access the graphic file and to  
5                 display a control element on the graphical user interface, the control  
6                 element having at least one attribute dictated by one of the control  
7                 objects.
- 1     2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a  
2                 layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in  
3                 a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.
- 1     3.     The method of claim 2, wherein the first control object and the second control  
2                 object share a common name attribute.
- 1     4.     The method of claim 2, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped  
2                 with the layer of the second control object.
- 1     5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one  
2                 control object may be added, deleted or altered.
- 1     6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the control element is an edit control to  
2                 manipulate a time-based stream of information.
- 1     7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.
- 1     8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function  
2                 or behavior in a particular environment.
- 1     9.     A computer system comprising:

2                   a storage;  
3                   a display device; and  
4                   a processor for:  
5                   storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each  
6                   control object in a separate layer, and  
7                   launching an application program to access the graphic file and to  
8                   display a control element on the graphical user interface, the  
9                   control element having at least one attribute dictated by one of  
10                  the control objects.

1    10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a  
2           layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in  
3           a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.

1    11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the first control object and the second control  
2           object share a common name attribute.

1    12.   The system of claim 10, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped  
2           with the layer of the second control object.

1    13.   The system of claim 9, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one  
2           control object may be added, deleted or altered.

1    14.   The system of claim 9, wherein the control element is an edit control to  
2           manipulate a time-based stream of information.

- 1 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.
- 1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function  
2 or behavior in a particular environment.
- 1 17. A system for producing a graphical user interface, comprising:  
2 means for storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each  
3 control object in a separate layer;  
4 means for launching an application program to access the graphic file  
5 and to display a control element on the graphical user interface, the  
6 control element having at least one attribute dictated by one of the  
7 control objects.
- 1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a  
2 layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in  
3 a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.
- 1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the first control object and the second control  
2 object share a common name attribute.
20. The system of claim 18, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped  
with the layer of the second control object.
21. The system of claim 17, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one  
control object may be added, deleted or altered.
- 1 22. The system of claim 17, where in the control element is an edit control to  
2 manipulate a time-based stream of information.
- 1 23. The system of claim 17, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.

- 1 24. The system of claim 17, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function  
2 or behavior in a particular environment.
- 1 25. A computer readable medium having stored therein a plurality of sequences of  
2 executable instructions, which, when executed by a computer system for  
3 producing a graphical user interface, cause the processor to:
- 4 store a graphic file having at least one control object, each control object  
5 in a separate layer;
- 6 launch an application program to access the graphic file and to display a  
7 control element on the graphical user interface, the control element  
8 having at least one attribute dictated by one of the control objects.
26. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the graphic file has a first  
control object in a layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a  
second control object in a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control  
element.
- 1 27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the first control object and  
2 the second control object share a common name attribute.
- 1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the layer of the first  
2 control object is grouped with the layer of the second control object.
- 1 29. The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the graphic file is editable  
2 and the at least one control object may be added, deleted or altered.
- 1 30. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the control element is an  
2 edit control to manipulate a time-based stream of information.
- 1 31. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the attribute is an  
2 appearance, location or size.

- 1 32. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the attribute is the element  
2 type, state, function or behavior in a particular environment.